

Claims:

1. A feeding bottle comprising:

5 a bottle body including an open end for mounting a teat assembly, and an air inlet; and

10 a stopper assembly, the stopper assembly being mounted to the bottle body and including a stopper manually moveable between a closed position in which the air inlet is closed by the stopper, and an open position in which the air inlet is open.

2. A bottle as claimed in Claim 1, in which the stopper is biased to the closed position.

15 3. A bottle as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the bottle body includes a base end, and the air inlet is provided at or near the base end.

4. A bottle as claimed in any preceding claim in which when the bottle is held in one hand in use, the stopper is operable by one finger of the hand.

20 5. A bottle as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the stopper assembly is pivotal to move the stopper between the closed and open positions.

6. A bottle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the stopper assembly is releasably attachable to the bottle body.

25 7. A bottle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the stopper assembly includes an aperture alignable with the air inlet.

8. A bottle as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the stopper assembly further includes a stopper retainer movable between a first position in which the stopper retainer retains the stopper in the open position, and a second position in which the stopper retainer permits movement of the stopper between the open and closed positions.

9. A bottle as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 7, in which the stopper assembly further includes a stopper retainer moveable between a first position in which the stopper retainer retains the stopper in the open position, and a second position in which the stopper retainer retains the stopper in the closed position.

10. A bottle as claimed in any preceding claim further including a teat assembly, the teat assembly being reversible between a drinking position and a sealed position.

11. A bottle as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising a liner receivable in the bottle body and having an air inlet formation cooperating with the bottle body inlet.

12. A bottle as claimed in claim 11 further comprising a piercing element for piercing the liner in the vicinity of the air inlet formation.

13. A bottle as claimed in claim 11 or claim 12 in which the air inlet formation is provided on an insert in the base of the liner.

14. A bottle as claimed in any of claims 11 to 13 in which the liner is pre-filled with liquid and sealed.

5 15. A bottle as claimed in any of claims 11 to 14 in which the bottle body includes a lower portion and an upper portion, including said open end, movably attached to said lower portion between two or more angular positions.

10 16. A stopper assembly for a bottle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, the stopper assembly comprising a pivot arm bearing a stopper and a biasing element for biasing the stopper to a closed position.

15 17. A feeding bottle stand adapted to support a feeding bottle when not in use so that the bottle is inclined and points downwardly with respect to the horizontal.

18. A stand as claimed in Claim 17, adapted to support a bottle as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 15.

20 19. A stand as claimed in Claim 18, in which the stand is arranged to support the bottle such that the stopper assembly is provided on an uppermost surface of the supported bottle.

25 20. A stand as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to 19 further including a heater arranged to heat the bottle body contents.

21. A stand as claimed in claim 20 further including a temperature sensor for sensing the vessel body content temperature.

22. A stand as claimed in claim 20 in which the temperature sensor provides a feed-back signal to the heater.

5 23. A mouthpiece assembly for a feeding and/or drinking vessel comprising a retaining ring, a mouthpiece and a mouthpiece plug, in which the mouthpiece is retainable by the retaining ring in each of a first, feeding position and a second, reversed, sealing position, the mouthpiece plug being sealable against the mouthpiece by the retaining ring in the second position.

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24. A mouthpiece assembly as claimed in claim 23 in which the mouthpiece comprises a teat.

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25. A feeding and/or drinking vessel including a mouthpiece assembly retaining formation and a mouthpiece assembly as claimed in claim 23 or 24 reversibly retained to the retaining formation.

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26. A feeding bottle comprising a bottle body including an open end for mounting a teat assembly and a liner, the liner and bottle body having cooperating air inlet formations, the bottle further comprising a stopper assembly mounted to the bottle body and including a stopper manually movable between a closed position in which the liner air inlet formation is closed by the stopper and an open position in which the liner air inlet formation is open.

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27. A bottle as claimed in claim 26 further comprising a piercing element for piercing the liner in the vicinity of the liner air inlet formation.

28. A feeding bottle filling station for a feeding bottle comprising a bottle body and a teat assembly, the station comprising at least one location for a bottle body and a teat assembly holding element laterally movable between a position suspended above the bottle body and a laterally spaced position and vertically movable between the suspended position and a bottle body engaging position.
29. A feeding bottle comprising a bottle body having an upper portion and a lower portion, the upper portion including an open end for mounting a teat assembly and being movably mountable on the lower portion between two or more angular positions.
30. A feeding or drinking vessel liner for insertion into a feeding or drinking vessel body, the liner being sterile and pre-filled with feed or feed constituent.
31. A bottle or stopper assembly, specifically as substantially described herein with reference to Figs 1 to 10 and 12 to 15 of the accompanying drawings.
32. A stand specifically as substantially described herein with reference to Fig. 11 of the accompanying drawings.
33. A feeding station substantially as herein described with reference to Fig. 16 of the accompanying drawings.